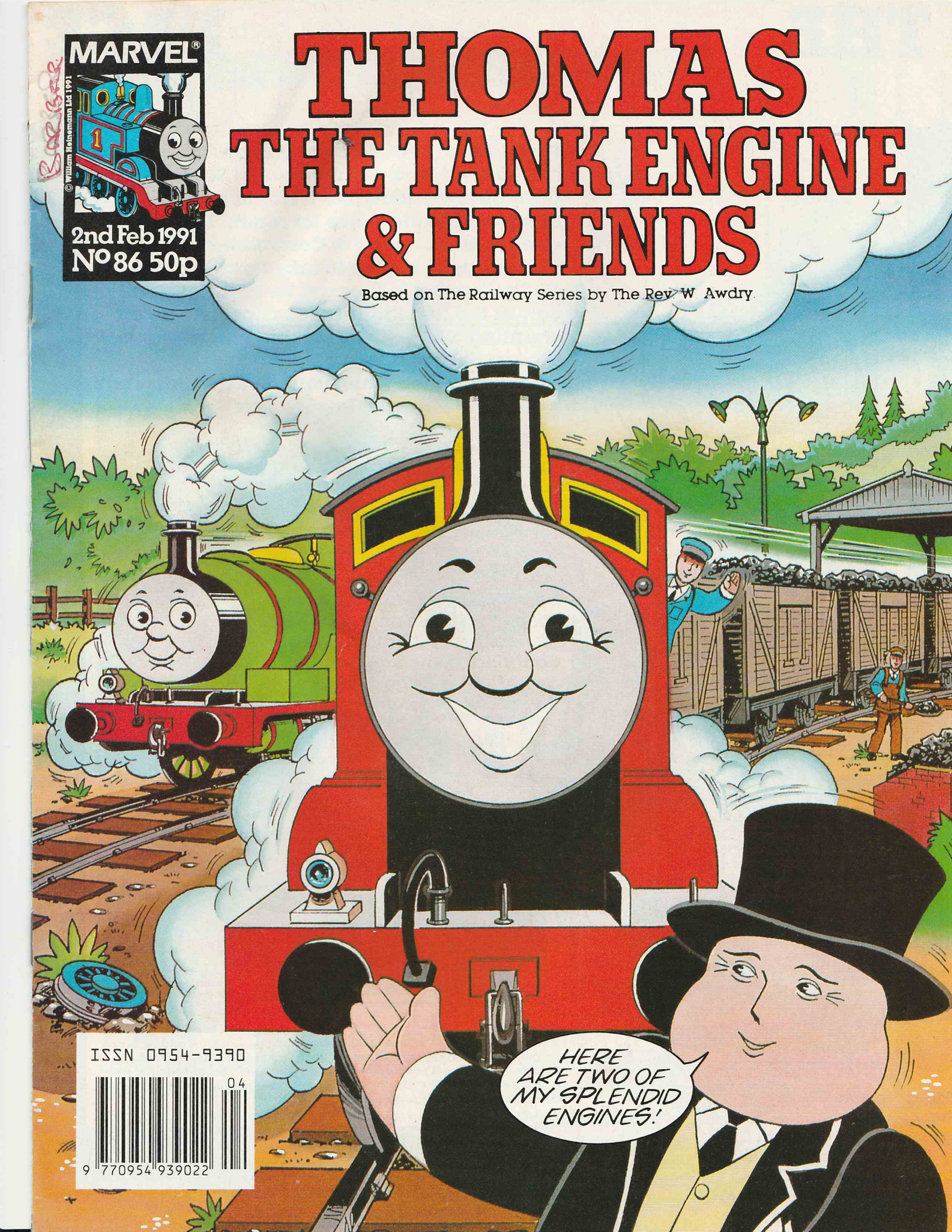

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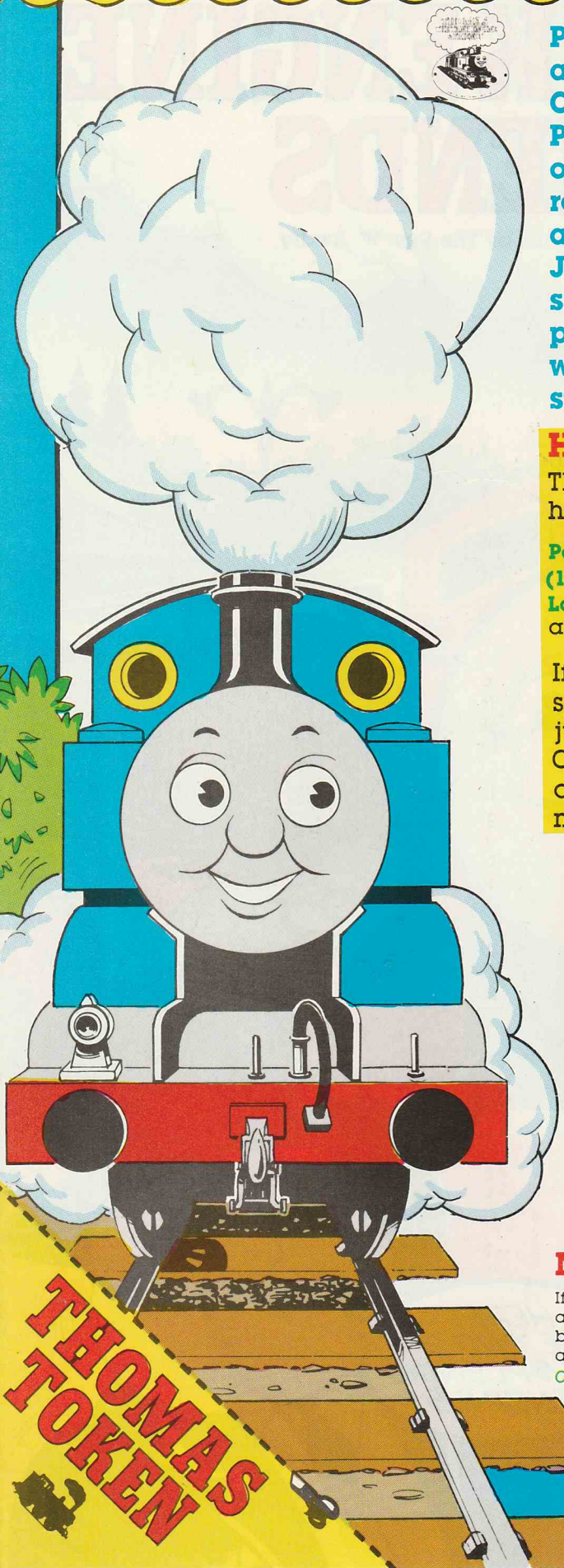
THE THOMAS CLUB PAGE

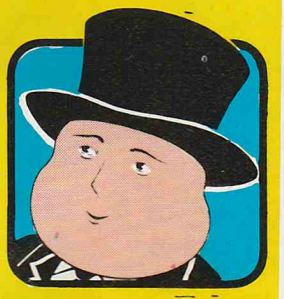


Peep! Peep! Poor Percy had been bumped and dented by a derailed truck! So the Fat Controller decided that it would be best if Percy went to the works for repair. But this left one problem... the Fat Controller needed a replacement engine to take Percy's place and go to work in the yard for a while! Finally, James the Red Engine was chosen to go on shunting duty in the yard, but James was not pleased about this at all! You can find out what happened when you read the story that starts just opposite! Peep! Peep!

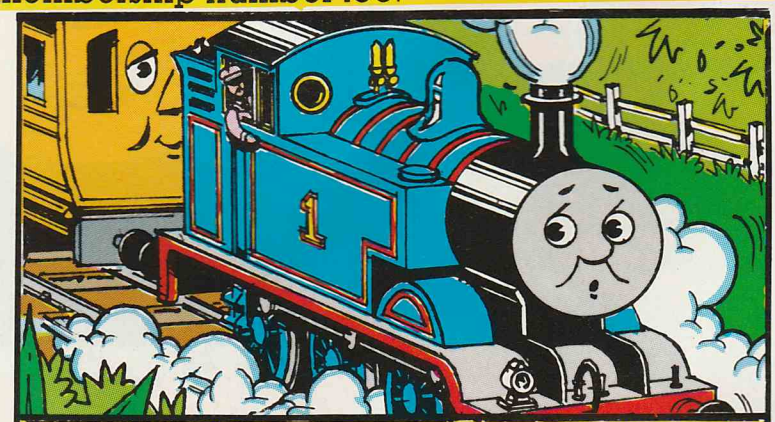
HELLO THERE!

The Fat Controller would like to say a special hello to the following readers. . .

Paul Atkins, aged 7, **Joey Chapman (14296), Matthew Deacon (15895), Lucy Louise Adamson,** aged 5, **Sean Hughes,** aged 4 and **Martin Lee Curtis,** aged 3.



If you would like to receive a special mention on this page, just send your details to the Fat Controller at the address shown on the letters page. Don't forget to include your membership number too!



In our next issue: Something is rattling in Thomas's boiler! Whatever can it be?

MEMBERSHIP CARDS

If you would like to become a member of the **Thomas Club** and receive a splendid membership card, just collect 3 tokens like the one at the bottom of this page! Send one **red, yellow** and **green** token together with a stamped addressed envelope, to: *Thomas Membership Cards, Marvel Comics Ltd, 13-15 Arundel Street, London WC2.*

THOMAS TOKEN

ABC

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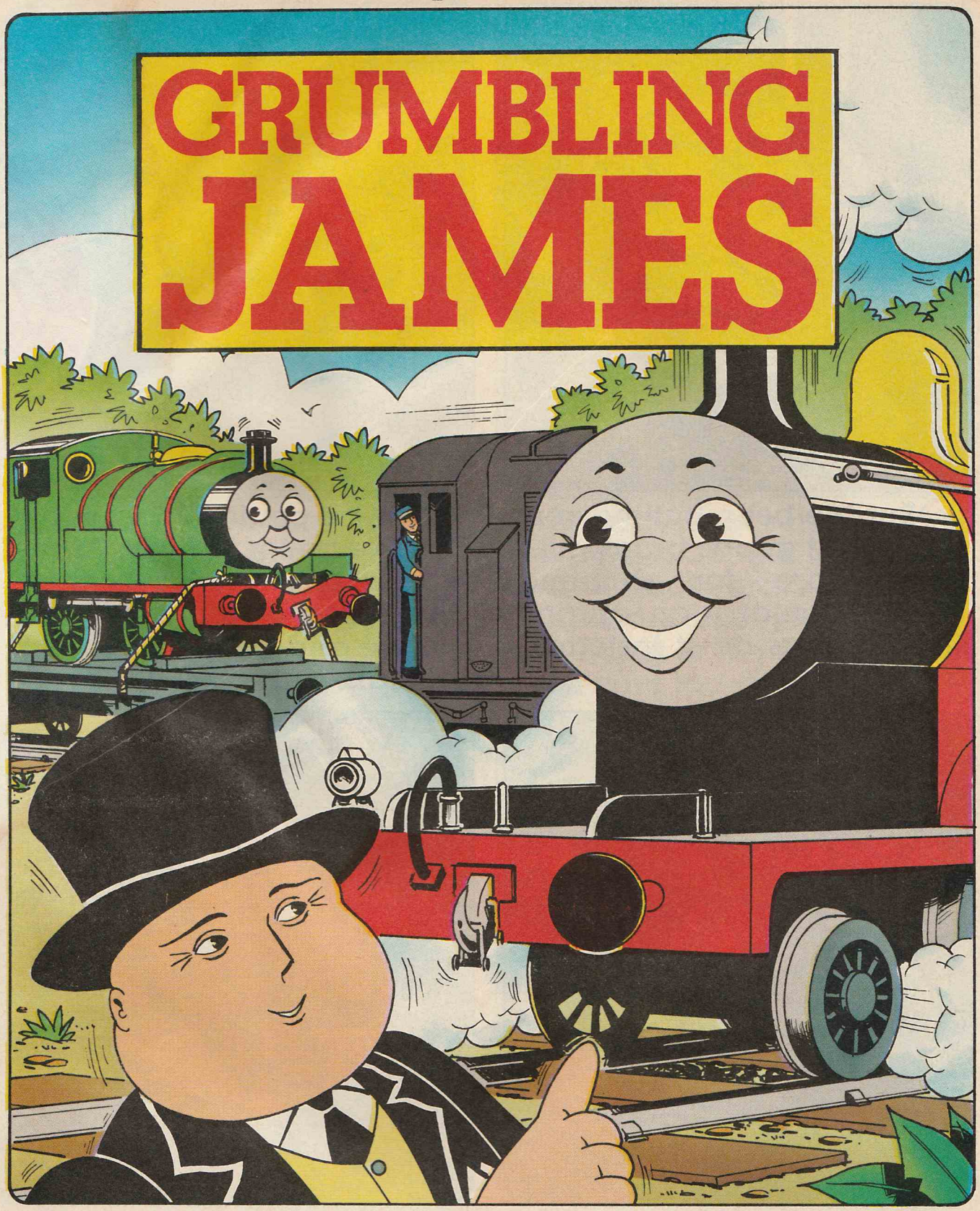
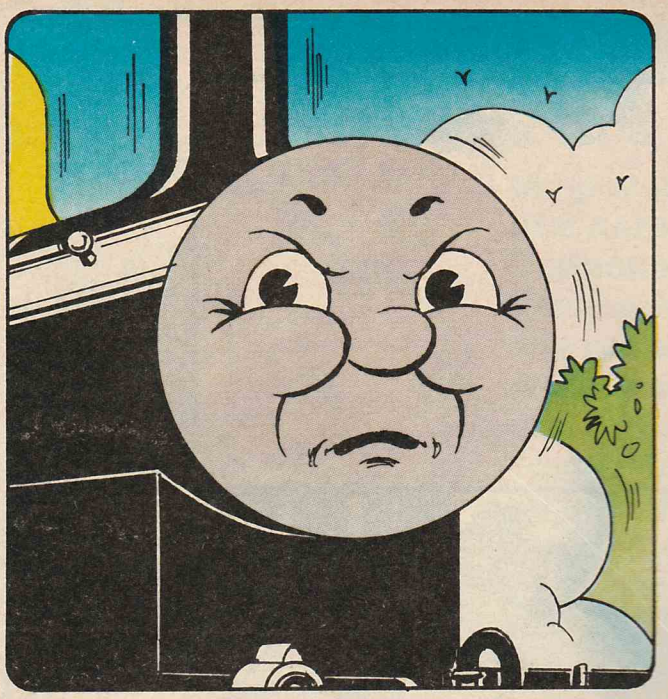
A listen and look story!

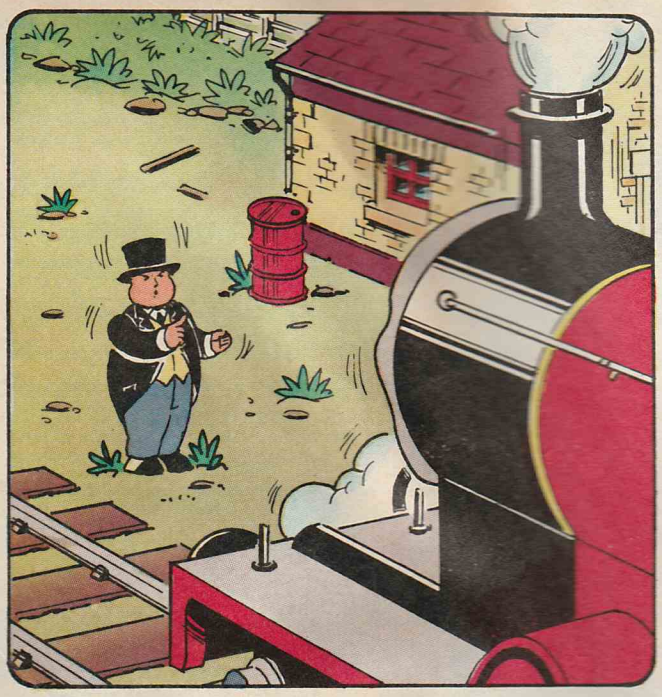


1. Percy had been bumped and dented by a derailed truck. He had gone to the works for repair. The Fat Controller needed a replacement engine in the yard.

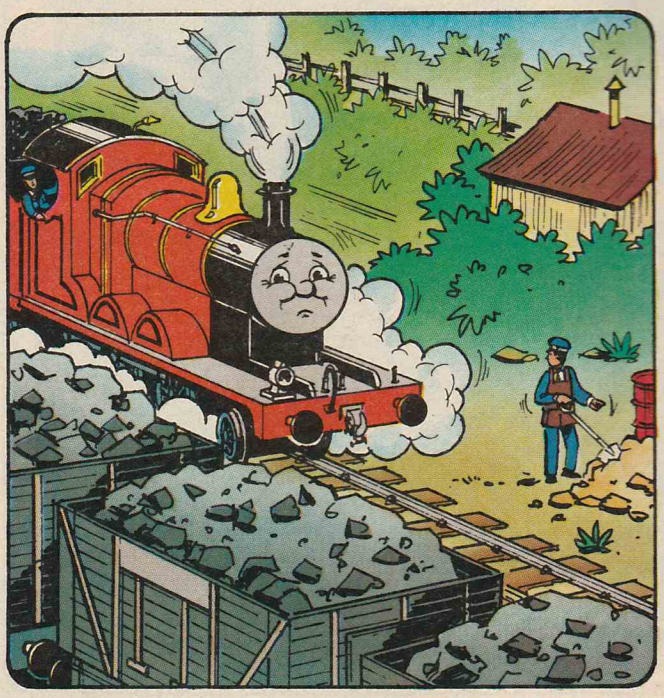
2. The Fat Controller went to see James. "Hullo, James," he said. "I need your help in the yard while Percy is away. You can go on shunting duty for a while."



3. "But I've been pulling very important goods trains, sir. I don't care for shunting much. Couldn't an engine like Thomas do it instead?" asked James.

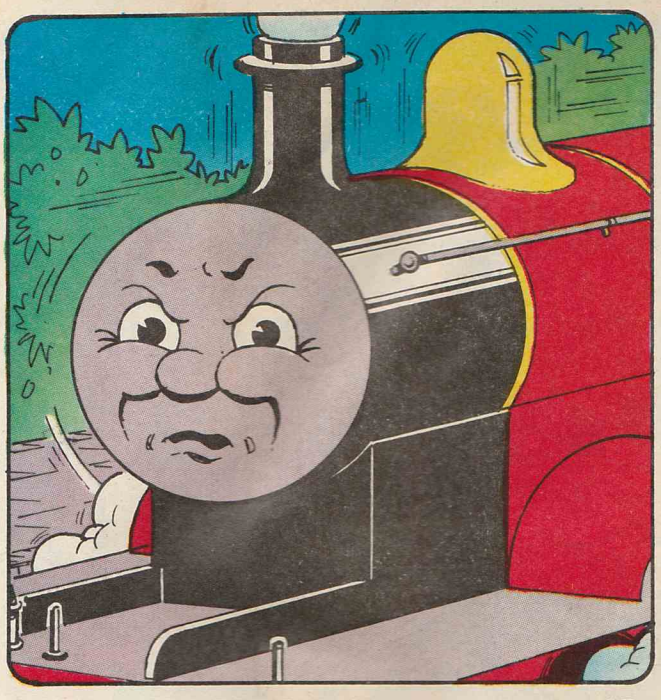


4. "No, he couldn't," said the Fat Controller crossly. "Thomas is busy on his branch line, Diesel is helping in the quarry and Duck is busy at the harbour!"

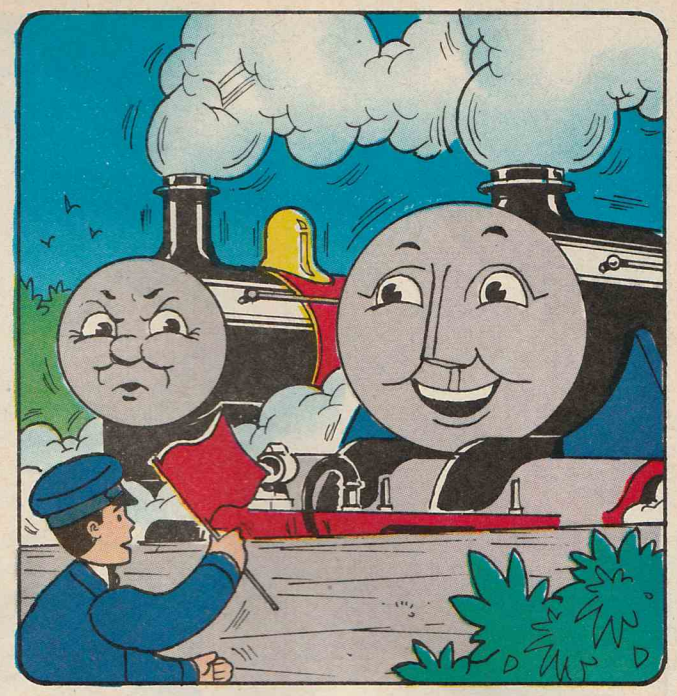


5. "You are the only engine available to help," the Fat Controller announced. James went to the yard, he didn't want to make the Fat Controller cross.

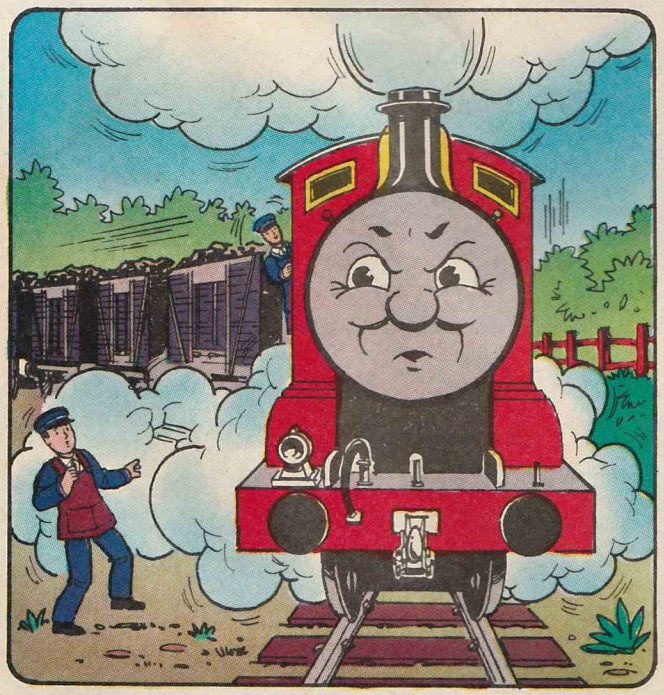
6. Soon Gordon pulled into the Main Station with the Express. "Will someone fetch my extra coaches?" he puffed. Eventually the coaches arrived; pulled by James.



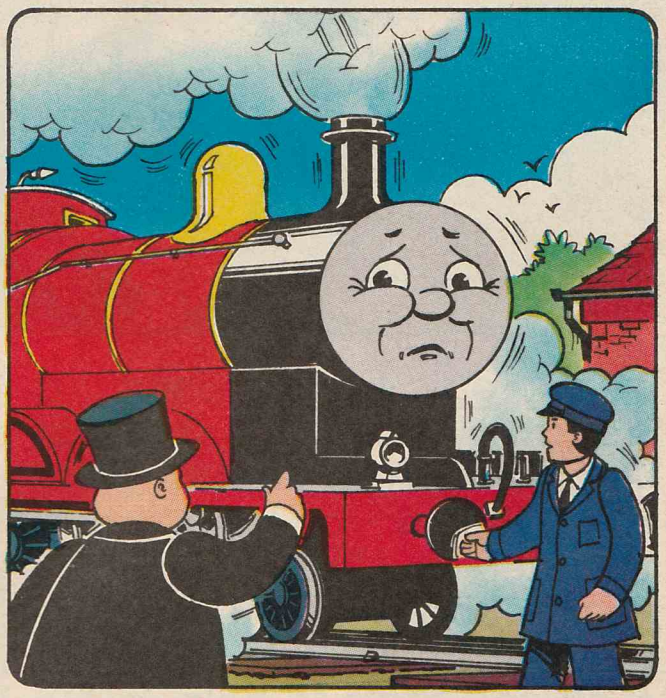
7. James looked very cross. "I am a splendid, red engine. I shouldn't be shunting coaches!" he grumbled. "I should be pulling coaches, just like Gordon!"



8. Gordon was surprised to see James in the yard. He teased poor James. "What is a mixed-traffic engine like you doing in the yard? It will spoil your red coat!"



9. James muttered and grumbled as he went about his work. He bumped the trucks and upset the workmen. He let off steam just to give people a fright!



10. The Fat Controller visited the yard to see what was going on. James had left some trucks in the wrong siding and the Fat Controller was very cross.

11. "You have been a naughty engine," the Fat Controller told James. "You must learn to help other engines and be kind to the trucks. Soon you will be able to pull trains again, but until then you have to help in the yard!" James felt very ashamed. "I will show everyone just how helpful I can be," he sighed.

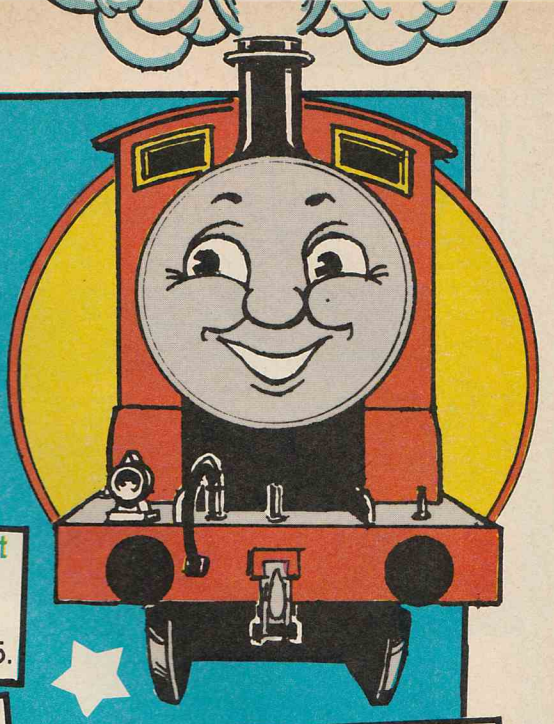
12. And that afternoon, James worked very hard. He moved trucks to sidings and delivered coaches to be coupled to the Express. The Fat Controller came to see him at the end of the day. "You have been a good engine and tomorrow you can pull the 'Flying Kipper' because Percy is back," he said. James **was** pleased.

THE END

In our next issue: The service!

JAMES'S JAPES

Have you got a favourite joke to tell James? If so, then why not send it to him at the address shown on the letters page?! The best jokes we receive will be printed in some of our future issues!



What do you call a holidaymaker with a seagull on his head?
Cliff!
Terry, aged 5.

What do you call a cow that can't give milk?
An udder failure!
Graham, aged 5.

What is grey, has four legs and a trunk?
A mouse going on holiday!
Simon, aged 5.

How do you get a mouse to fly?
Buy it an airline ticket!
Jane, aged 6.

Why do bananas use suntan lotion?
Because they peel easily!
Mark, aged 6.

How do rabbits travel?
By hareplane!
Adam, aged 4.

What fish make good shoes?
Soles and eels!
Daniel, aged 6.

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Are you finding it difficult obtaining your copy of the **Thomas Poster Magazine** from your newsagents? Then look no further! Simply complete the coupon below and send it to us together with your remittance, and we will send you **Thomas's splendid Poster Magazine** within 28 days!

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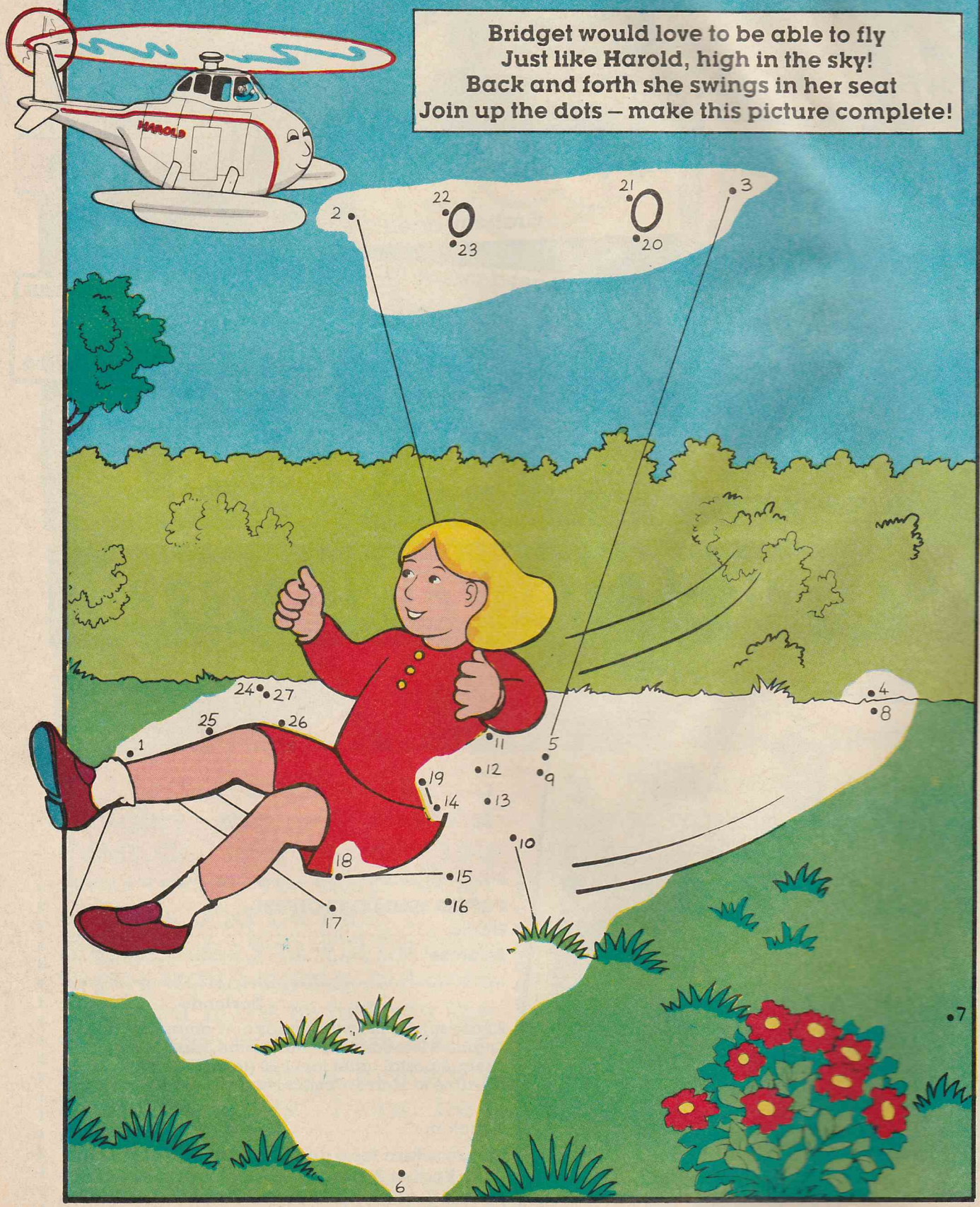
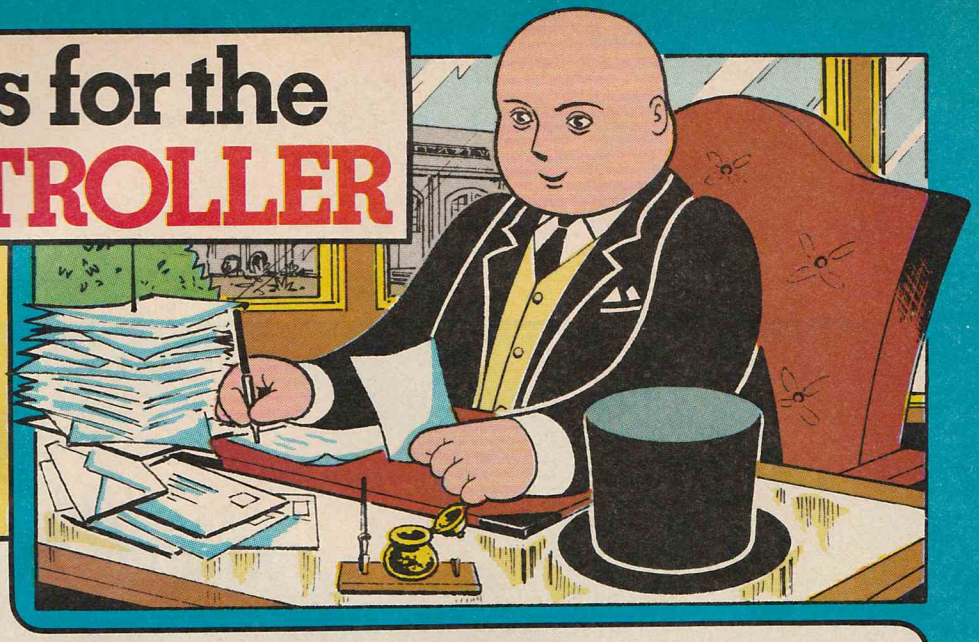
JOIN THE DOTS!



Your letters for the FAT CONTROLLER



Have you got an amusing story to tell? Do you have a question you would like to ask about Thomas or his friends? If so, then write to me at the address shown below! I would be so very pleased to hear from you!

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

STAR LETTER!

Dear Fat Controller,
James is my favourite engine
I like Percy too
I like Thomas and Gordon
Because they're painted blue
Edward, Duck and Toby hang
Upon my bedroom wall
But naughty, horrid Diesel
I like least of all!
Love from **Sharon.**

Upon my soul...
good gracious me
this really is splendid poetry
Your charming effort has won a prize
To write again would be wise!

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

The sender of any letter that is printed as our **STAR LETTER** will win a splendid **Thomas the Tank lunchbox and flask** – from *Bluebird Toys (UK) Ltd.*

IDENTICAL ISLAND!

Dear Fat Controller,
I live on a small island just like **Thomas the Tank Engine** and his friends, but the only difference is that we don't have a railway! This is why I love watching my Thomas videos and reading my Thomas comics so much!
Lots of love from **James.**
Mem. no. 34233.

My, my... what a lovely place to live! In the past I have often taken my two grandchildren, Stephen and Bridget, to your beautiful island for our holidays!

NURSERY FUN!

Dear Fat Controller,
At nursery, me and my friends like to play **Thomas the Tank Engine** with the toy train set! We like to shout out, 'Help! I've fallen into a ditch!' or 'I need to stop!' It's great fun!
Love from **Adam.**

My, my . . . it certainly does sound as if you have a very jolly time! I do hope that your engines never really fall into ditches though! That could be very messy indeed!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Marlyn Normanton (18584), Ben Guest, Matthew Reading, Douglas Reading, Graham Reynolds (25612), Andrew Davy (11211), Steven Howard Baker, Hannah Elizabeth Causer (2900), Daniel Gray (14529), Marc Thompson (31235), Christopher Ward (24052), Mark Cullen (723), Leanne Lester (15922), Michael Sullivan, Christian Daniel (4365), Jon-Man Gheung, Gary Lock (22896), Sarah Louise Williams (6911), Keith Garner, Hayley Stocker (19220), Gary Patmore, Ross Morton (1721), Jason O'Leary, Alistair Barugh (1805), Ian Baxter (12396), Jennifer Lappage, Jeremy Molesworth, Lucy Cijffers, Jonathon Leathley (5777).

If you would like a birthday mention here, just send details on a postcard, at least **nine weeks** in advance. We cannot promise to print all the birthdays, but we will do our best.

Yours,

Sir Topham Hatt.

the Fat Controller.

Send your letters to:

The Fat Controller
The Island of Sodor
c/o Marvel Comics Ltd
13/15 Arundel Street
London WC2.

Past the fro

Which engine can you see?

What number is he?

Where has he just come out of?

How many coaches is he pulling?

How many geese are flying

Point to the melted snowma

How many children are wav

How many children are wea

ozen pond!

flying in the sky?

owman!

re waving?

re wearing hats and scarves?

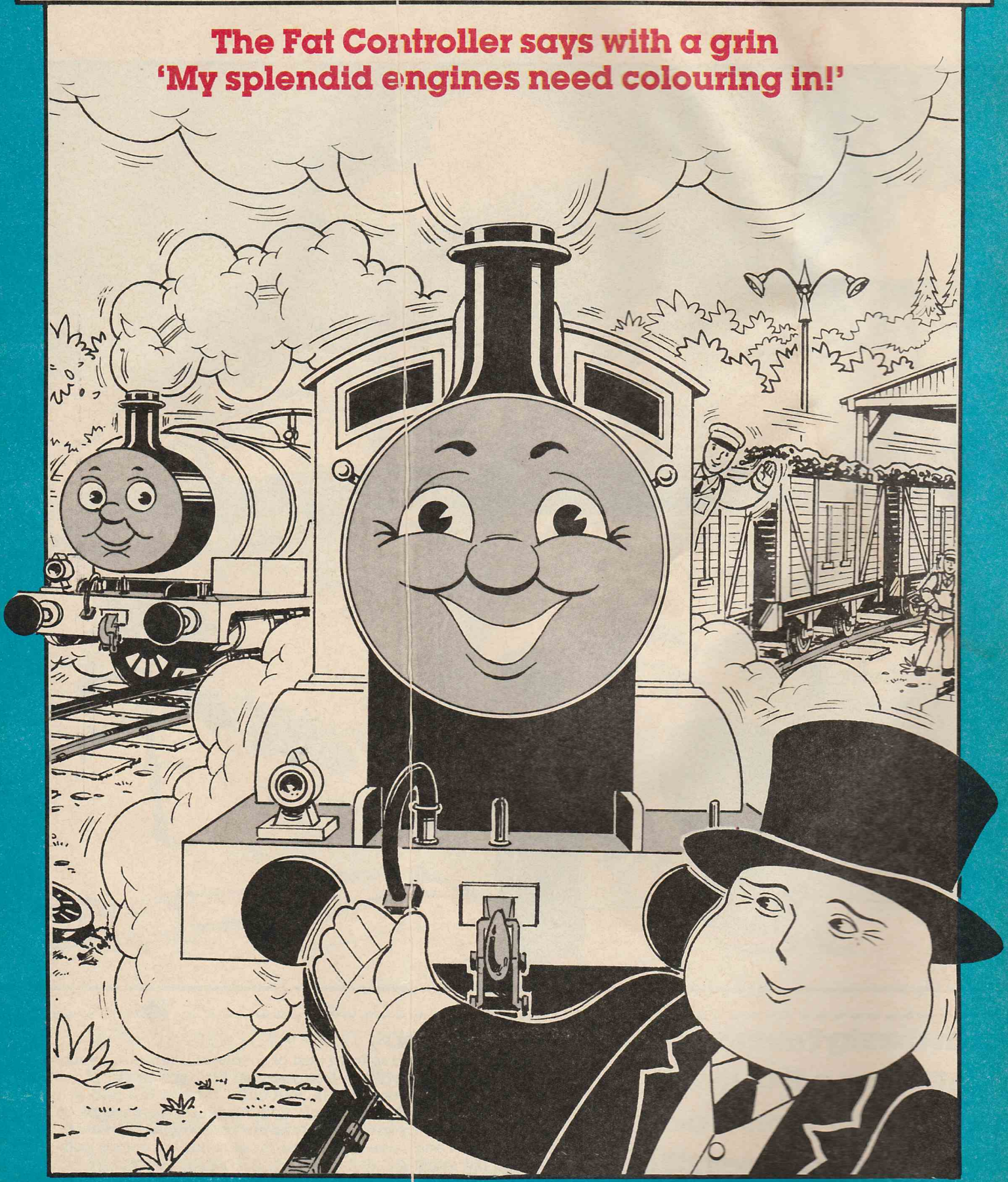
Note for parents

This page is designed to form part of a colourful mural for your child's bedroom, playgroup or classroom. After you have finished reading the comic with your child, remove this part of the centrespread by cutting along the dotted line. There will be a 'mural page' in every issue of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends.** Why not collect each one and watch Thomas and his friends puff all round the room!

Next issue: Turning the soil!

COLOURING TIME!

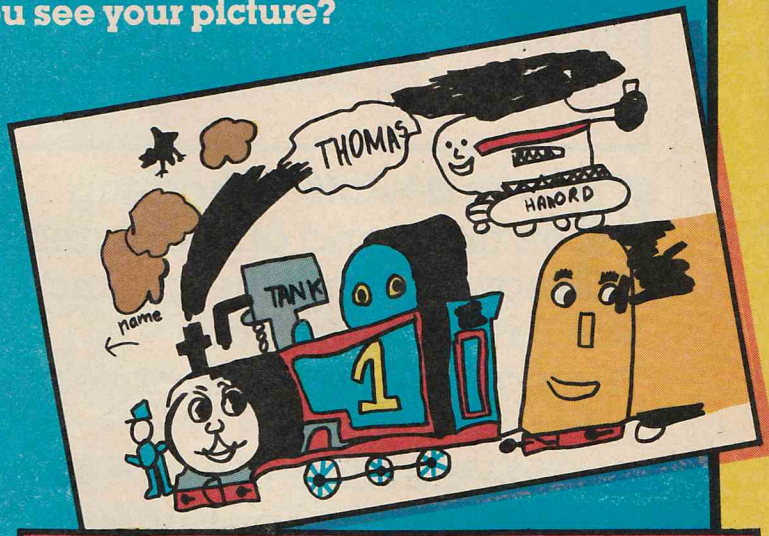
The Fat Controller says with a grin
'My splendid engines need colouring in!'



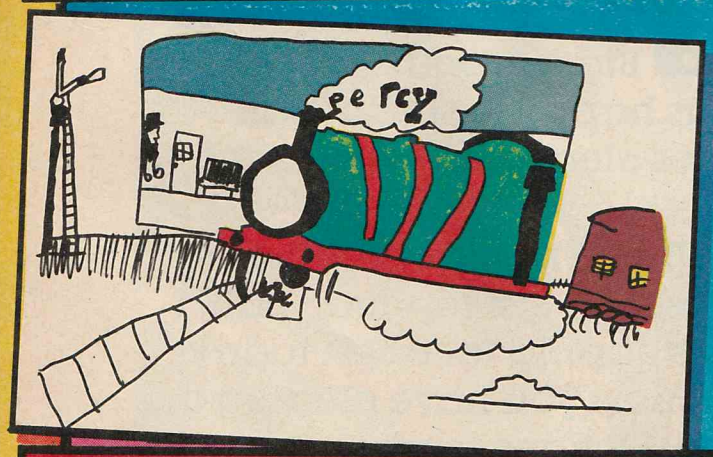
YOUR DRAWINGS
for the Fat Controller

Here are some of the many splendid drawings that you have sent in to us. Can you see your picture?

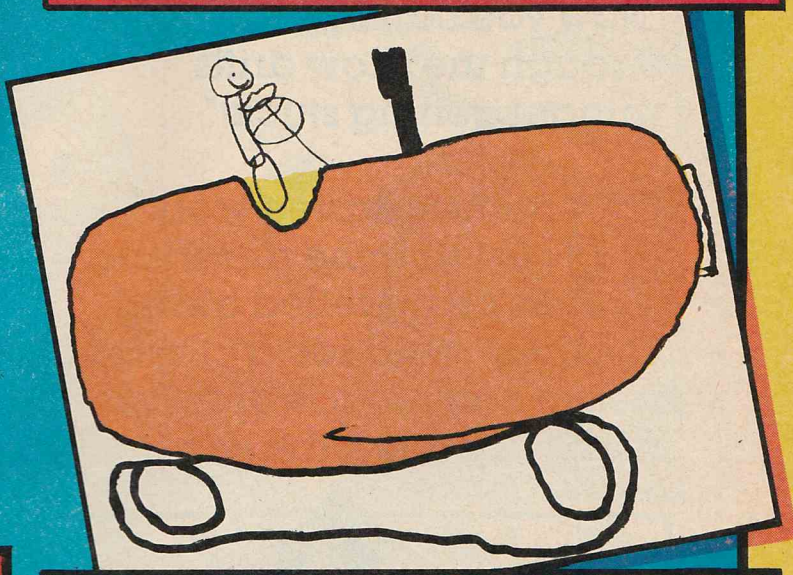
Here is a splendid drawing of **Thomas the Tank Engine** chugging out of his warm shed into a nasty storm. It was sent in by **Robert Alpin,** from Gwent. His membership number is 33194.



It's thirsty work pulling carriages! That's why **Thomas the Tank Engine** has stopped by the water tank for a refreshing drink! Above him flies **Harold the Helicopter!** This splendid drawing was sent in by **Sandy McCracken,** aged 6, from Kilmarnock.



This picture of Percy stopping at a signal, just near the Main Station was sent in by **Benjamin Weir,** from Dyfed. Well done, Benjamin!



Here is a super drawing of **Terence the Tractor,** happily being driven along! It was sent in by **Toby Royal,** from Norwich.

Thank you all for sending in your pictures – we are sorry, but we could only print a couple in this issue! If you would like to draw a picture and have a chance of seeing it printed in a future issue, please send it to:
The Fat Controller (Picture Page), The Island of Sodor, Marvel Comics Ltd, 13-15 Arundel Street, London WC2.

A read-aloud story!

Diesel and the Snow!

It was a Winter's morning on the Island of Sodor and snow covered the ground. The Fat Controller told Thomas that he would have to wear his snow plough Outside the shed, the workmen were busy putting it on.

"Very good, Thomas," said the Fat Controller once the snow plough was attached. "Now you can charge through the snow drifts without getting stuck!"

Thomas started work clearing the main line. As he travelled along, Thomas could see a cloud of steam coming towards him from way down the line.

snow plough

"Peep! Peep!" whistled Thomas.

"Pip, Peep! Hullo, Thomas!" It was Percy. Percy had a snow plough on as well. He was clearing the opposite line!

Thomas didn't like the snow at all. "Silly, soft stuff!" he grumbled.

"Yes," agreed Percy. "It's cold and wet and it makes my wheels slip!"

Thomas continued clearing the line to the Big Harbour. Everybody was happy to see the railway lines clear of snow, except Diesel.

When Thomas greeted Diesel he just replied, "Pah! I was hoping for a rest today! But now you have cleared the line, I'll have to work!"

"I am only doing what the Fat Controller asked," replied Thomas.

"Well," hissed Diesel, "your snow plough looks very silly, Thomas. A diesel engine like

myself can manage snow without an ugly snow plough."

Meanwhile, the wind had become stronger and blown the snow up into a tall drift along the sidings. Diesel's driver opened up the throttle and they charged straight into the snow drift. **Whumph!**

Thomas watched and waited, but Diesel didn't come out.

Thomas's guard went to tell the stationmaster. Thomas went round to the other side of the snow drift to clear away what he could with his snow plough.

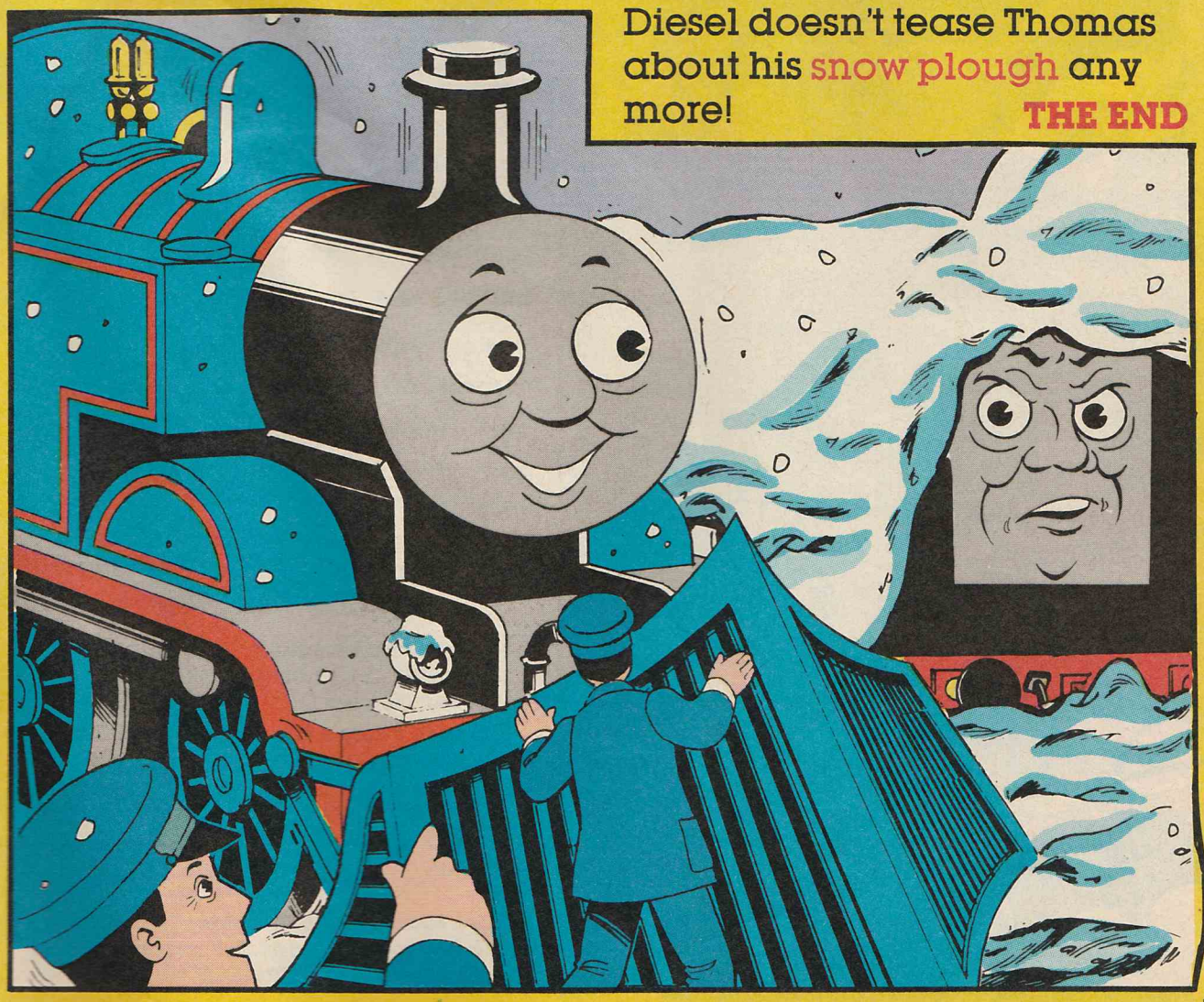
Finally, he was able to see Diesel's miserable face peeping out of the mound of snow.

Thomas peeped and tooted excitedly, "Here is Diesel!" he called.

Diesel shivered, he was too cold to start.

Thomas did all he could to clear the snow, then they all had to wait for the workmen to come and dig Diesel out with their shovels! Diesel doesn't tease Thomas about his snow plough any more!

THE END



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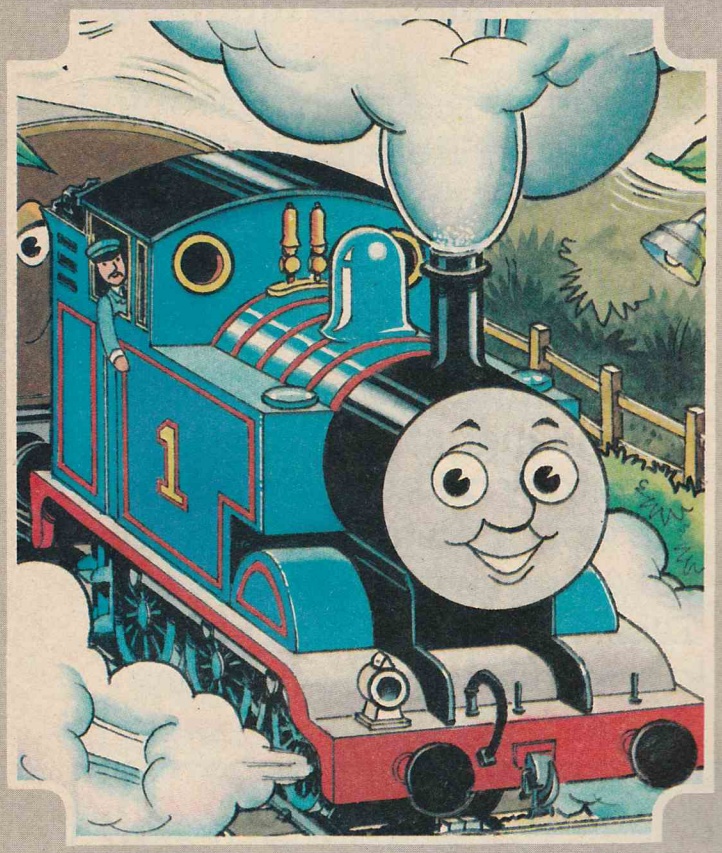

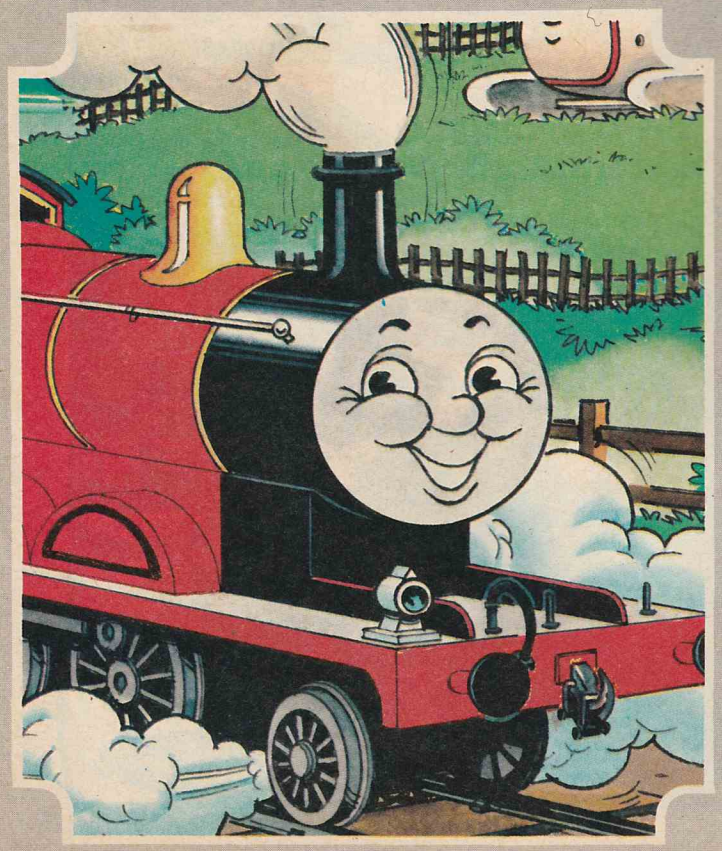

. . .to your child's favourite fortnightly magazine. . .

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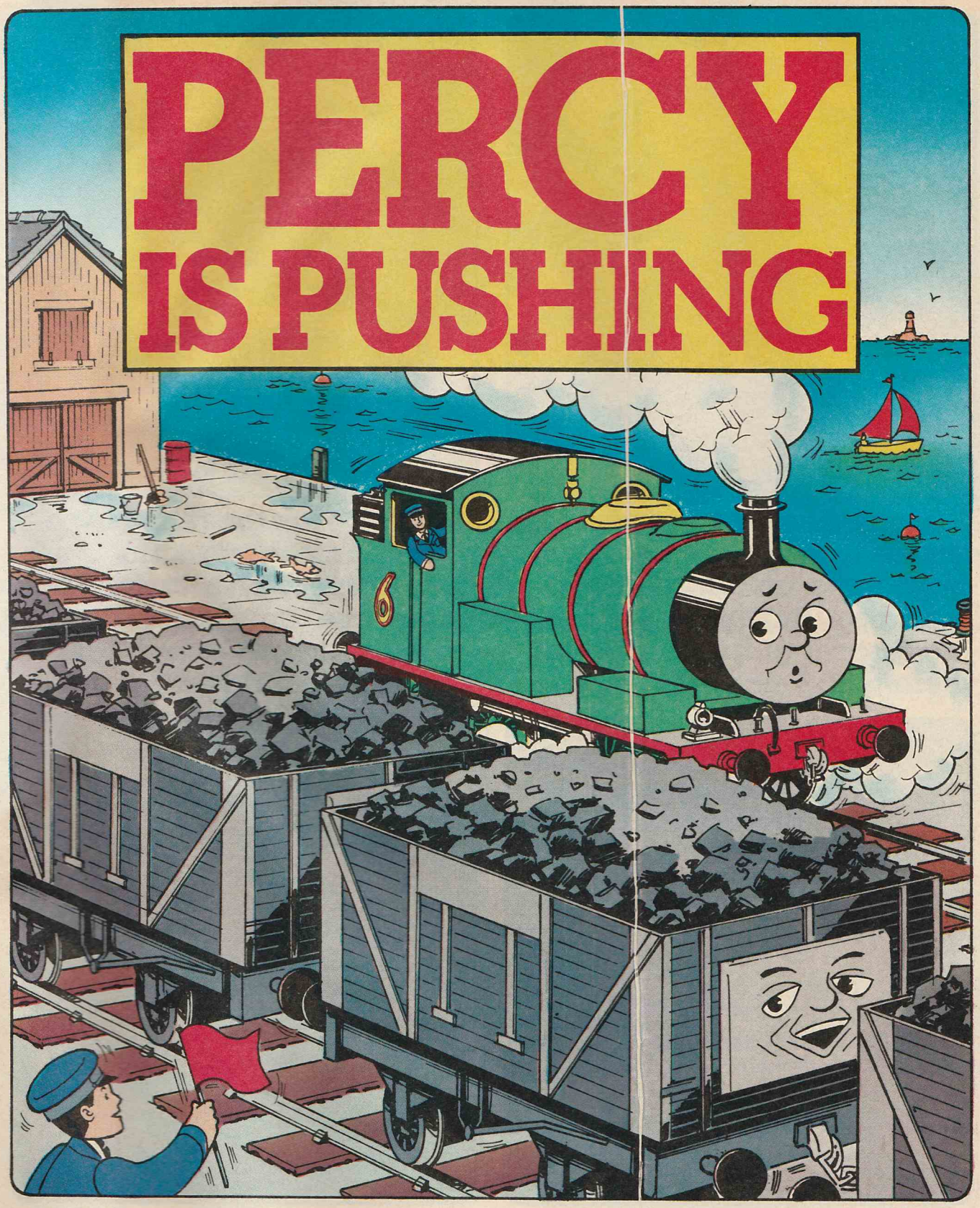
Signature ..... Expiry date .....

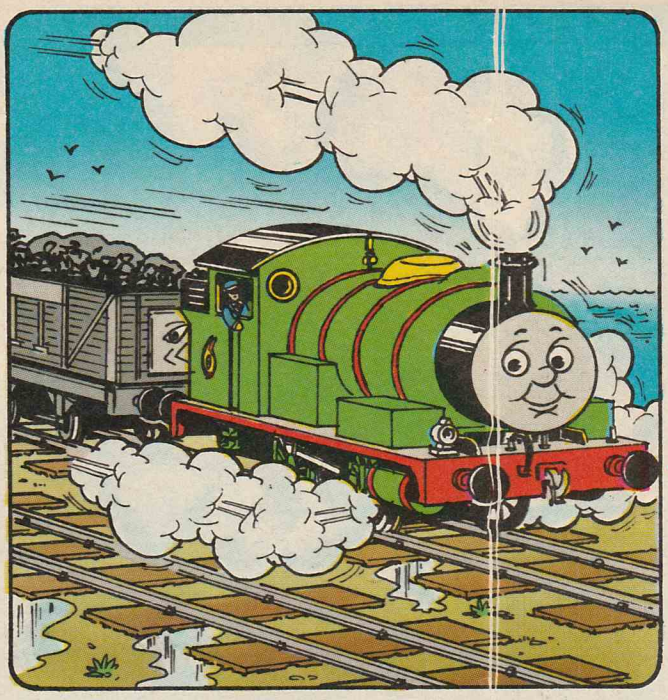
Return form and payment to: *Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends Subscriptions, P.O. Box 500, Leicester LE99 0AB.*

A listen and look story!

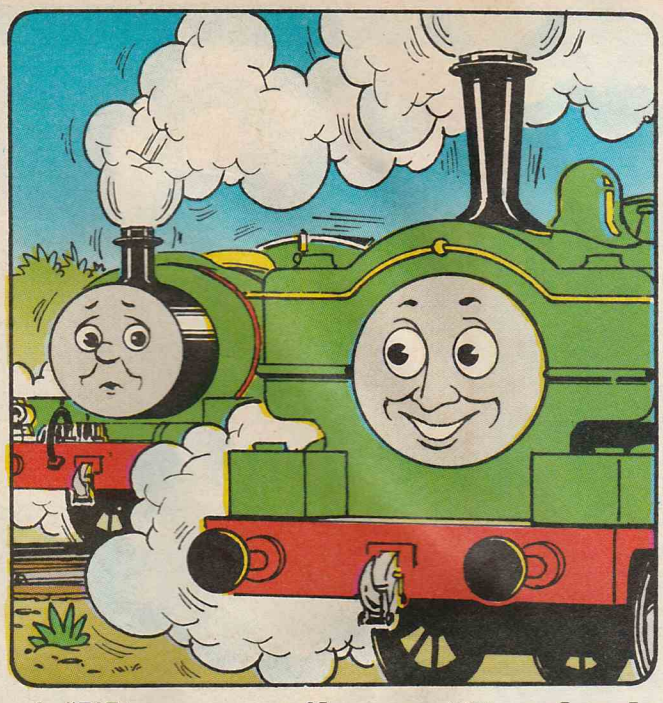


1. It was a cold Winter's day on the Island of Sodor. Percy was busy in the Harbour Yard, shunting trucks. He was about to collect some trucks for Duck.

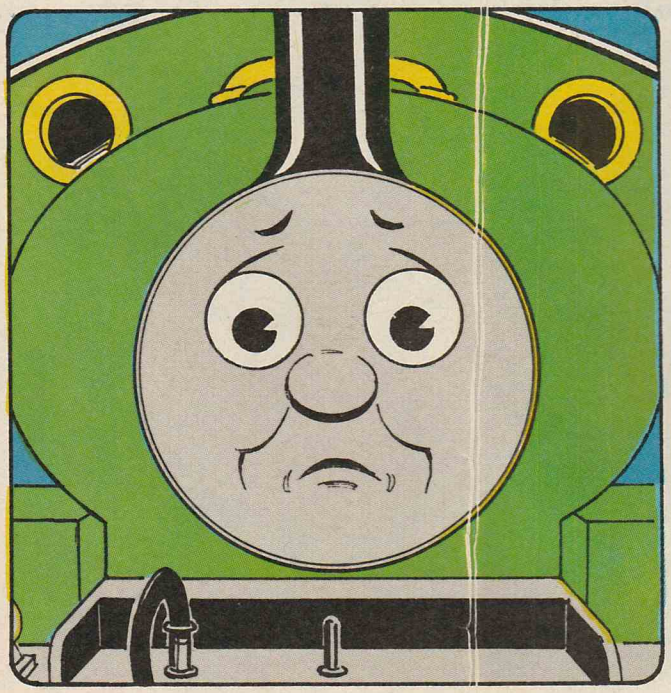
2. Duck had been asked to pull a long goods train. There were many trucks which needed to be brought. They had all been filled with goods from the cargo ships.



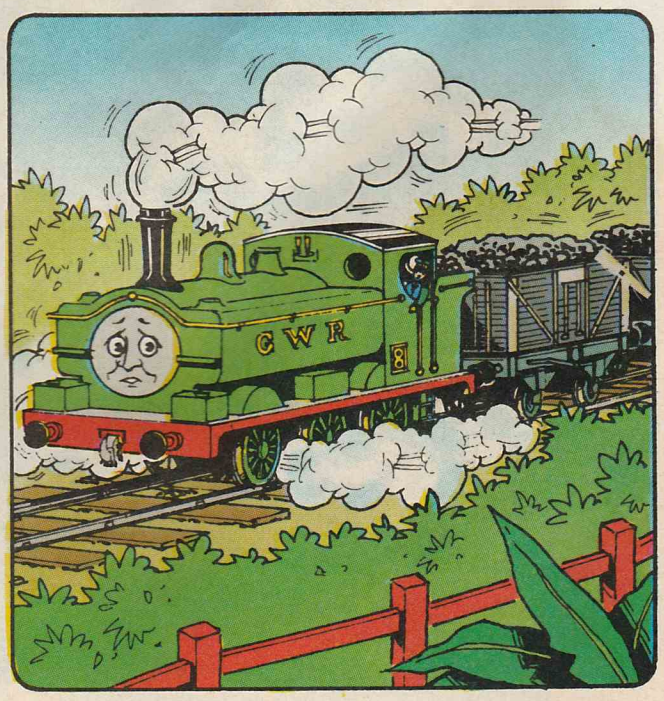
3. Percy decided to take the trucks in two journeys. They would be much easier to manage that way. He took the first set of trucks and left them with Duck.



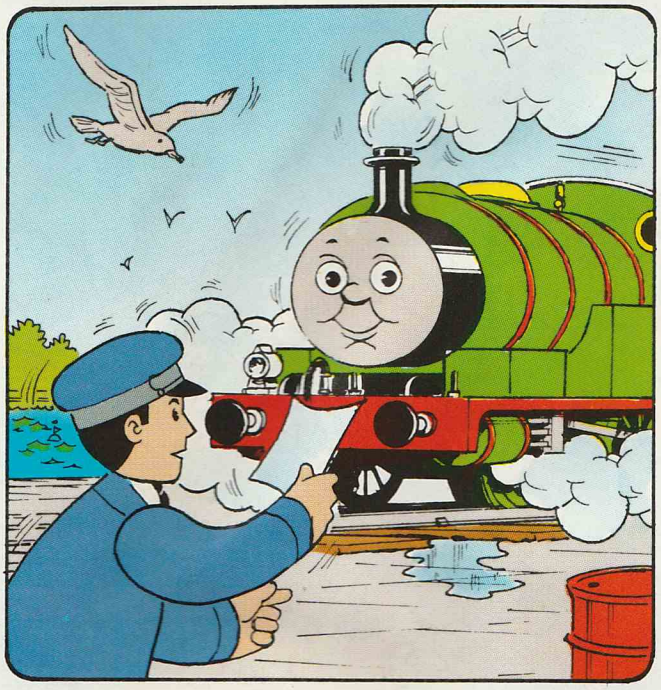
4. "Where are the rest?" asked Duck. "My driver said there would be twelve trucks, but there are only six here." "I will bring the rest in a moment," said Percy, kindly.



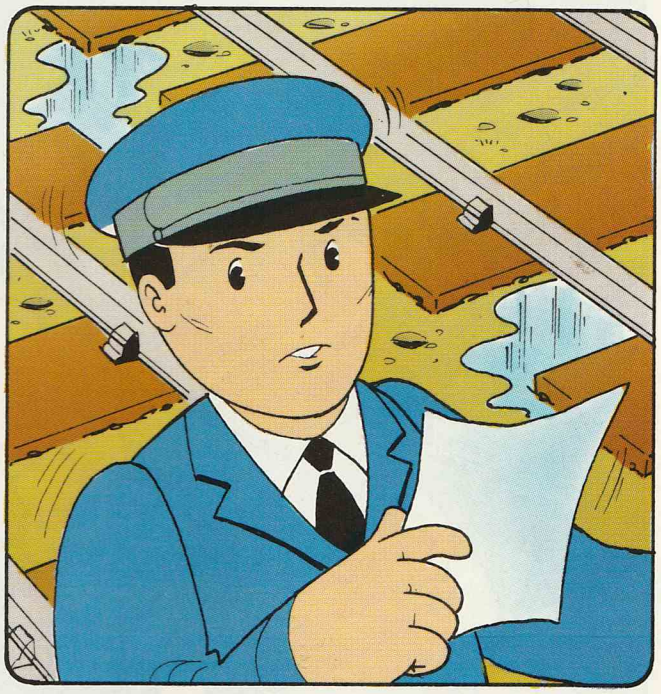
5. Percy rushed off to collect the remaining trucks. The trucks wanted to stay in the siding. They bumped and pushed poor Percy when he pulled them.



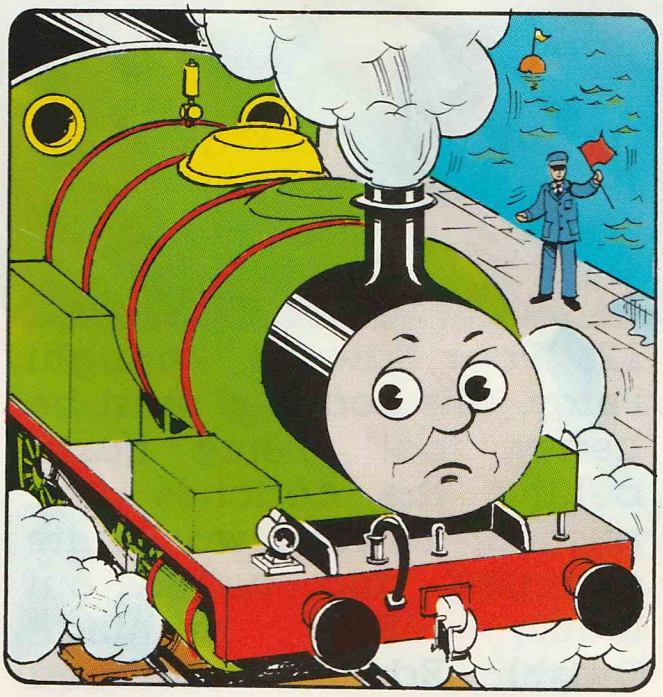
6. Soon Duck was coupled to the grumbling trucks and was ready to go. "Oof!" he wheezed, as he pulled forward. "These trucks are heavier than I expected!"



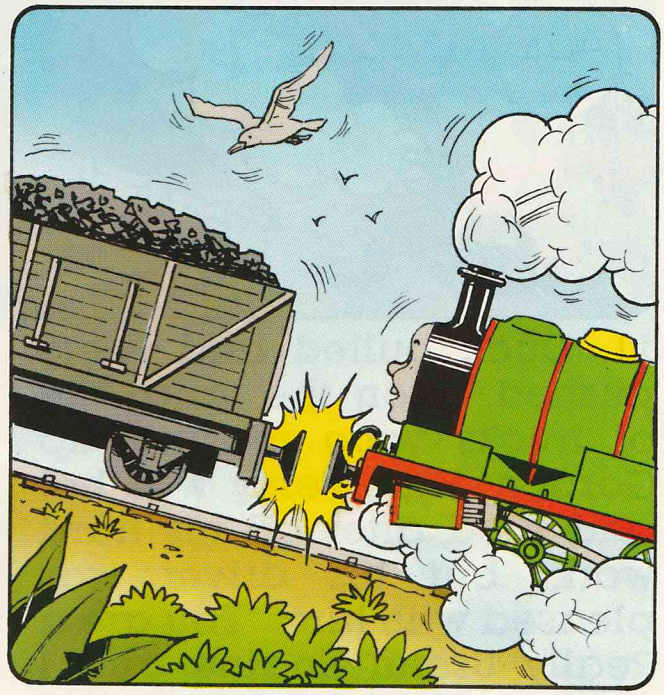
7. Slowly Duck built up his speed and soon he was making a lot of steam. Back in the yard, Percy was busy with his own work, when the stationmaster came out.



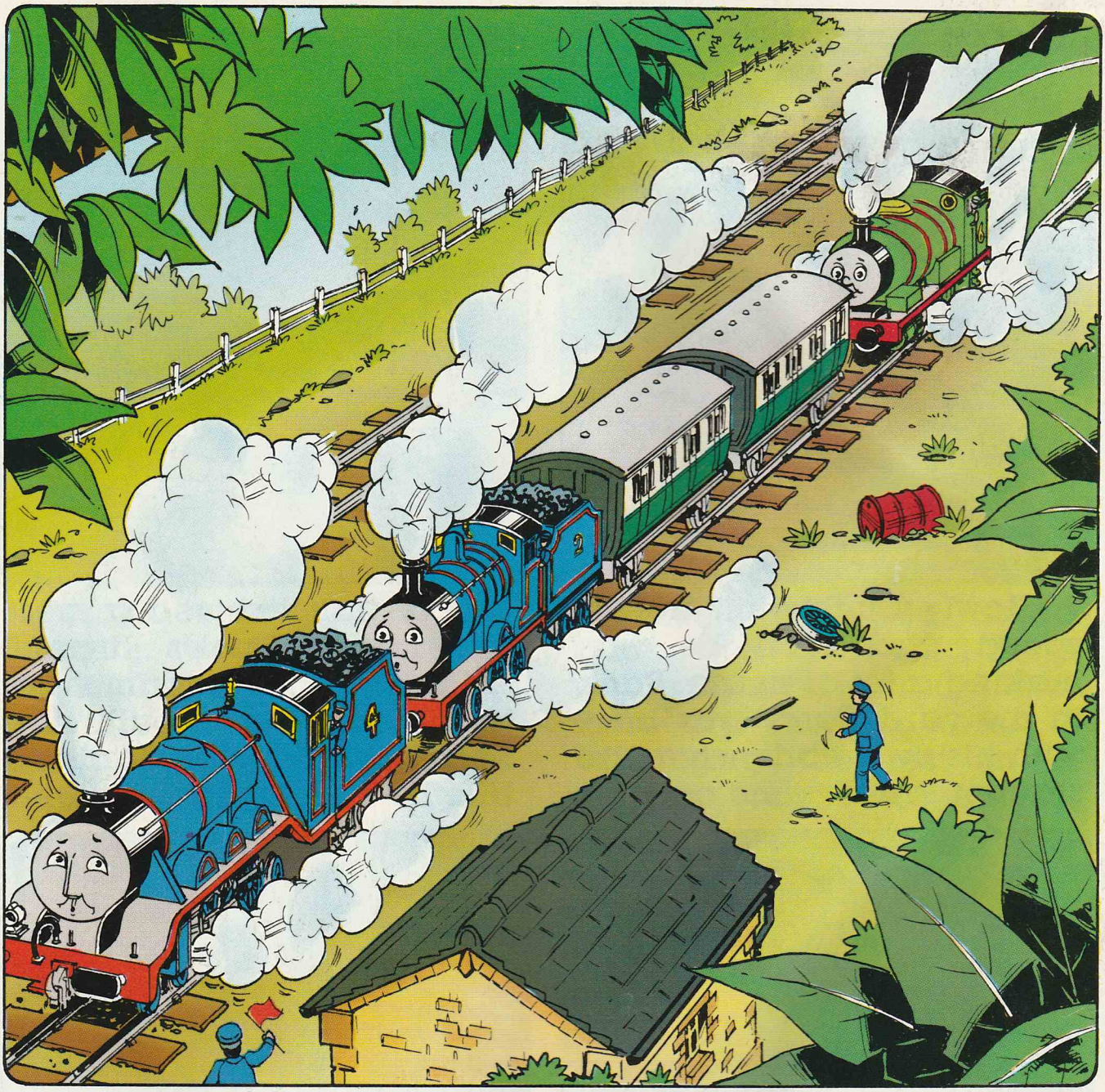
8. "I've just received a message from Duck's driver," said the stationmaster. "Duck couldn't pull the heavy trucks up Gordon's Hill. He needs your help!"



9. "What about the coal trucks I have to deliver?" grumbled Percy. "Why can't Duck look after himself?" Percy muttered as he puffed away to help Duck.



10. Percy soon reached Gordon's Hill. He could see Duck's train. Percy came up behind the last truck and touched it with his buffers. Then he pushed forward.



11. Duck pulled and Percy pushed. Soon the long line of trucks were moving up Gordon's Hill. Percy was hot and tired after all his hard work, but his driver was pleased with him. "You are a Really Useful Engine and I am proud of both you and Duck," said his driver. On the return journey, Percy saw Edward just ahead.

12. "Poor Edward," thought Percy. "His coaches must be heavy, too!" Percy came behind the coaches and pushed. Edward was quite surprised and called out loudly. "Stop pushing!" **Crash!** Edward bumped hard into Gordon. The Fat Controller was most displeased. "I was only trying to help, sir," said Percy, sadly.

THE END

In our next issue: Danger in the tunnel!